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Copyright © 1978 Published by Elsevier Science Ltd.**Thermal decomposition of asphaltenes****Speros E. Moschopedis, Sat Parkash and James G. Speight**Fuel Sciences Division, Alberta Research Council, 11315-87 Avenue, Edmonton,  
Alberta, Canada T6G 2C2

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**Abstract**

The thermal decomposition of Athabasca asphaltene at relatively low ( $< 350\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) temperatures is believed to proceed by elimination of groups situated on peripheral sites of the asphaltene. More severe degradation of the asphaltene structure does not occur until elevated ( $> 350\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) temperatures are attained.

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